

The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume XLIV Number 1

WWW.MDARC.ORG

January 1997

January Meeting

Friday, January 17
8:00 PM
Our Savior's Lutheran
Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA

Presidential QRM

By Sam Lipson, KO6JR, MDARC President

Happy New Year to all and may 1997 bring each and every one of you happiness and good health throughout the year.

Jerry, W6UV, our editor, asked me if I wanted to change the name of this column. He had picked it out after seeing it in another newsletter. I think it is a great name, assuming, of course, that you have a mind of your own. I would bet that each of you have your own goals, expectations and desires for our Club and our hobby. Some of you may enjoy reading the thoughts and words of your president, however others may find my words to be interference to the progress you may desire. In either case, the title will not change unless one of you come up with something more descriptive of my words.

Let's look back upon the last few years here at the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. We have successfully produced PACIFICON for four years straight. We have revitalized the ARES/RACES program in Contra Costa County. We have changed the way members join MDARC and Rocky Ridge. We have grown to almost 700 members from less than 500 during the early ninety's. We have instituted a VE program at our meetings and in conjunction with our classes. And the list goes on. These programs are available and successful because of active members in the Club. Let's keep this enthusiasm going and do great things during 1997, our 50th year.

So what is ahead of us? Our *Carrier* staff is still looking for a few good people to help with the production and mailing of our newsletter; the VE team could always use more VEs; the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group and PACIFICON Committee are always looking for people to involve themselves in their activities; Field Day can always use team captains and operators. And I am sure there are other ideas out there which will come to our attention. Find what you like to do and get involved. You will enjoy what you do and the Club will benefit.

Let us also thank Don Anthony, N6SIA, for his novel ideas and organization for December's holiday gathering. As far as I could tell, from wandering throughout the crowd, that a good time was had by one and all. Thanks also go out to all who helped make this event a success.

And how can we not mention Larry, KB2GV, who over the last two years has guided this Club to where it is now. To Larry and the rest of the Board, a big thank you.

So, let's start 1997 off running and continue to keep the quality of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club at a very high level. Happy New Year and 73, de Sam, KO6JR.

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...At Your Service

By Charles Arthur, AC6WU

Most of us spend many hours in our cars during the week. A major disaster could force us to rely on our car for short-term shelter and survival. Many of us stand a 33% chance of being at work when a disaster strikes. **BEING PREPARED** with a mini-survival kit could make the hours until we reach home more comfortable and safe.

Besides your ham radio, here are some essential items to have in an emergency kit. You can order ready-made kits or put one together yourself at considerable savings. Survival kits are available retail or by mail order from about 20\$. Check the

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(510) 932-6125

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to w6uv@ccnet.com (preferred), or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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A Holiday Party To Remember

The members who braved the storm on December 20 will long remember our annual Awards Ceremony. Larry Gansz, our outgoing president, presented the well deserved awards with great aplomb and good humor, marking the end of his fine leadership throughout the year. Our local merchants out did themselves with their generosity this year. We seemed to have prizes for everyone. The food was remarkable as well.

This year we opted for an appetizer buffet which provided everyone with a more than ample meal. Buffalo wings, Meatballs, Quiche, Cheese cake were among the most popular of the over thirty item buffet tables. The egg nog enhanced the holiday spirit as well. We even managed to start on time and have everyone home by the ten o'clock news.

Special thanks should go especially to Don Anthony, who orchestrated the whole event. Quite professional. His backup crew in the kitchen deserve unbounded thanks as well. Without them, we could not have done it. Thanks must also be given to the members who helped distribute the gifts and the members who pitched in to clean up. Thank you, thank you all.

We had a grand prize donated by HRO, a 2M ICOM hand held, with accessories. For the first time the entire membership participated in the drawing for this prize. It was the feeling of the board that a prize of this value should be shared by all of the dues paying members. The winner was Paul Severns, KE6EYE.

Following is a list of all the merchants and others who contributed the prizes. Remember to patronize our merchant contributors often. Their support certainly helped make this party a success.

McDonald's Restaurants of Stonestown in San Francisco. Mike Wilde, General Manager

Payless Drug Stores, Monument Blvd, Concord, Francoise Thimon, General Manager

Little Caesar's Pizza, Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, Phuong Ballard, Manager

Ham Radio Outlet (H.R.O.), Larry Gansz, Manager

Frank and Ethelmae Williams, W7ILZ: Radio equipment

Richard and Doris Schulze, AA6DL, KC6SUA: See's Candy

The Base Station, Art Mayoff, Owner, AB6HB

We wish you all a happy and prosperous 1997.

1996 Awards

By Larry Gansz, KB2GV

Awards. What do they mean to us? Webster says award: something that is conferred or bestowed upon a person, assigned after careful judgement. This year we've seen new hams step forward and take leadership roles with the vitality of youth. Long time hams continue teaching, leading, holding us to the principles of amateur radio, and providing the wisdom that only comes from years of experience and enduring vast trials and tribulations.

Many people deserve recognition for their time and service. Look at the Carrier, Pacificon, field day, public service, nets, membership, training, testing, and club events. You see only the tip, as we know ninety percent of the iceberg is below water. Awarding a few individuals is not the sole purpose of a dozen plaques, but to recognize the work and dedication of many, all supporting our service and the respected traditions of amateur radio. I know the awardees represent the efforts of many. Take pride in your accomplishments, your gold medal performance. We the people are better because of them.

The new Lifetime Service Award was presented to Dick Brown, KT6X. Over 40 years a ham, Dick has served as club President, Vice President,

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...At Your Service

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Yellow Pages under "Earthquake" or "Safety Supplies".

Items you will want to include in your kit are: Snack type food, water, small First Aid kit, mylar "space" blanket, flashlight with extra batteries, battery operated AM radio, comfortable shoes, ziplock bags, toilet tissue, pair of heavy work gloves, and a pocket knife. If you are using an HT, don't forget extra ALKALINE batteries for your radio.

There is a great service being performed by those that operate mobile amateur radio. Mobiles are useful for everything from reporting breakdowns and accidents to letting family and friends know when you will be at a particular place. Nevertheless, they can take your concentration away from the road. Here are some tips for staying safe while making a contact:

Drive a little slower when talking on the radio. This will give you more time to avoid road hazards.

Let passengers do some of the talking or make calls.

When you punch up a number on the keypad, particularly when using an HT for mobile work, take extra care to keep your eyes on the road. Program frequently dialed numbers or use a speed dial option for autopatch so you don't have to stare at the keypad as long.

Don't try to write while driving. If you need to jot down information, pull into a parking lot or other safe area.

Don't use the radio during times of poor visibility or extremely heavy traffic. You'll need both hands on the steering wheel.

Don't have involved or intense conversations while driving. They may take your concentration away from the road. Make these calls after you have stopped.

Above all, use common sense. Any activity that requires your attention while driving increases your chances of being involved in an accident. By following a few simple suggestions, you can keep in touch safely.

Happy New Year, 73's, Charles, AC6WU.

1996 Awards

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Director, trustee, RRRG Chair, technical leader, Pacificon Treasurer and Chair, VE, and I could go on about public service, BBS, Internet, auction, and more.

Ham of the Year was presented to Sam Lipson, KO6JR. He worked as club EC, Vice President, VE, RACES training, county district EC, public service events, Pacificon, APRS, liaison with communities, and introduced amateur radio to schools.

Greg Estep, KE6VTA, received the Kilroy Key for club Treasurer, Pacificon cochair, public service, and detailed budgeting and cost analysis. The Kilroy Key was passed on from last year's awardees, Doris and Dick Schulze.

The Public Service award went to Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, for organizing and participating in more events for the year than we've had in recent times. He follows in the path of John Stuart, George Jones, Wayne Merryman, and the legendary Joe Gregory.

The Pacificon award represents the thousands of hours by the 120 plus people of the Pacificon committee. Representing the spirit of amateur radio and MDARC, dealing with vendors, accommodating last minute changes, and resolving problems, Shirley McKenzie, KE6SQV, never stopped until it was done right.

W6CX awards are presented for outstanding or unique service deserving recognition. Gerry White, WB6IZE, for audio and video support of meeting programs and Pacificon. Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, for field day and door prizes (thanks to his XYL Liz for selling tickets). Jerry Gardner, W6UV, for the *Carrier* (even though he changed the officers in December vs. January). Greg Nelson, WB6MBD, for his work on RACES, public service, MDARC Web page, and meeting programs. Jeff Straus, KE6QYM, updated and repaired several emergency communication systems. Jim Brunk, N6BHX, for work on public service events, RACES, central county net, and Pacificon. Dick Tomsick, KJ6YE, and his XYL Pat for selling over 300 tickets for Pacificon each year.

Congratulations and thanks to all. Thank you to the families for your patience, understanding, and support.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary presented a certificate of appreciation to MDARC for donating a booth at the last two Pacificons.

Heard Island Expedition to be Led by MDARC Member Bob Schmieder, KK6EK

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

A large-scale DXpedition led by Bob Schmieder will visit Heard Island in the southern Indian Ocean this month. The crew includes 21 radio operators from 10 countries. The expedition will depart Reunion Island aboard the French vessel *Marion Dufresne* on January 3 and spend 2 weeks on Heard Island starting on January 12. The expedition was originally scheduled to visit Heard Island in November 1995, but had to be postponed when the ship chartered for the voyage developed problems.

Heard Island is located in the southern Indian Ocean due south of India at 53° S 73° E. in the antarctic region. The principal feature of the island is a towering 9000 foot volcano named Big Ben. About 85% of the island's land surface is covered with glacial ice. The expedition will also visit the islands of Crozet and Kerguelen.

The expedition will activate Heard Island using the call VKØIR on all HF bands and on amateur satellites. Since Heard Island is almost antipodal to the United States, U.S. amateurs will not find it easy to work Heard during the current period of low solar activity. Both the short and long path routes traverse the polar regions and band openings will be brief.

Heard Island is high on the list of most-needed DXCC countries. The last time a major DXpedition visited Heard was in the early 1980's when two expeditions operated from the island simultaneously. This may be your only chance to work Heard Island for quite some time, so don't miss it!

ARRL Pacific Division Update

By Brad Wyatt, K6WR

Welcome to 1997. 1997 will likely be another exciting year for Amateur Radio as we implement the new RF emission rules, many amateurs get used to their new vanity call signs, the sunspots slowly

begin to reappear, and all the usual activities of clubs, hamfests and conventions start. Let's enjoy a great 1997!

NTIA Report is Bullish on Additional HF Allocations for Amateur Radio

High Frequency (3-30 MHz) Spectrum Planning Options—a planning document released Dec. 13, 1996, by the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration, says the HF spectrum is flexible enough "to accommodate most, if not all," demands for additional HF spectrum, including new and bigger HF ham bands. The report cites a potential 900 kHz or so of expanded or upgraded allocations for Amateur Radio in the HF spectrum, including:

- an exclusive, worldwide allocation at 3500 to 3800 kHz

- a new band at 4945 to 4995 kHz

- an "aligned worldwide" allocation at 6900 to 7200 kHz

- expanded worldwide, primary allocations at 10100 to 10350 and 14000 to 14400 kHz

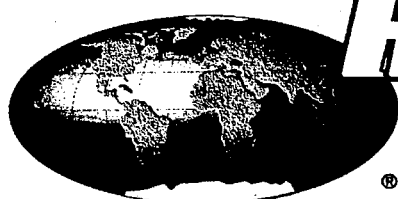
- expanded allocations at 18068 to 18318, 24740 to 24890, and 28000 to 30000 kHz.

No time schedule for possible implementation was given. To view the complete report, set your Web browser to <http://www.fcc.gov/osmhome/reports/hfspo/contents.html>

FCC Proposal to Ease International Licensing Requirements

In comments filed in response to an FCC proposal that would make it easier for visiting foreign hams to

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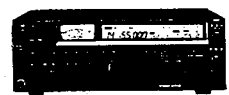
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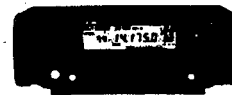
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temporarily operate in the US, and vice versa, the ARRL "heartily supports" the plan, but suggests some changes. Earlier this year, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) radio-amateur license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) from certain countries in the Americas to operate during short visits to the US. If finally approved, hams would be able to operate for short periods in participating countries without first obtaining another license or permit from the host country. The arrangement would also make it easier for US hams to operate stations temporarily in several countries in Europe, Central and South America.

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1996 MDARC Public Service Events Participation Summary

By Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, MDARC Public Service Coordinator

First, I want to thank the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club very much for awarding me the 1996 MDARC Public Service Award. I consider it a great honor. As was stated several times at the Christmas social, it was very much a team effort. Because of that, I want to start the new year with a summary of our Public Service accomplishments from last year. Below is a short list of MDARC public service statistics. The hours invested is an estimate, based on a guess at the approximate length of each event.

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS:	29
TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:	91
PARTICIPANTS AS % OF MDARC MEMBERSHIP:	14%
TOTAL NUMBER OF HAM-EVENTS*:	181
TOTAL HAM-HOURS INVESTED (Est.):	1,567

As you can see, over 90 hams participated in MDARC's public service events, investing over 1,500 hours. I feel that's quite an accomplishment. I especially want to thank those hams that took on an extra load, either participating in multiple events or taking on the often difficult job of coordinating an individual event. The following seven people were the most active, and I offer my special thanks to them:

TOP PARTICIPANTS**:	John Stuart	KM6QX	14
	Joe Gregory	WA6DQN	13
	Mac McIntyre	KE6ZZG	8
	Terry Dearborn	W6HPC	8
	Drew Hanson	KD6GLY	7
	Rod Raines	KE6QYK	6
	Greg Nelson	WB6MBD	6

*The sum of all participants in all events

**Includes extra count for coordinating events

There are a number of reasons hams get involved in ARES, RACES, the Sheriff's Reserve or other forms of public service. Many of them go beyond amateur radio. However, a very important reason is that, considering all the recent assaults on our spectrum, if amateur radio is going to survive in any form similar to what it is today, it will be to a large degree because of our public service. We must convince the public, and hence Congress, that hamming is much more than just a hobby taking up a valuable government resource. The only way we can do that is 1.) increase our public service activities and 2.) increase public awareness of our involvement in those activities.

So even if your sole interest is rag chewing on the HF bands, you have a responsibility to help amateur radio survive, not just for your benefit, but for future generations. Pay your dues by volunteering for a public event; no experience necessary. And if you happen to coordinate an event, ask the event sponsor to send a note to our Congressional representatives and senators letting them know how important our help is to them.

Thanks again to all those that helped out during 1996. I look forward to an even better 1997.

ARRL Pacific Division Update

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Awards and Scholarships

There are many awards and scholarships covering a wide range of situations available to licensed Amateurs. For example, the ARRL awards include the International Humanitarian; the Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year; Professional Educator of the Year; Professional Instructor of the Year; Excellence in Recruiting; Phil McGan Memorial Silver Antenna; Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial; Field Organization Volunteer of the Year. Contact the Field Services Dept. at ARRL HQ for details. To apply for ARRL Foundation scholarships, write to The ARRL Foundation Inc., 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111. Deadline for applications and transcripts is Feb. 1. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its 1997 college scholarships. Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1997 are eligible for 2000 dollar scholarships. Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Court, Springboro, Ohio 45066. Other organizations will be announcing their dates for applications for their 1997 scholarships. Watch QST and other amateur radio publications for details.



Board of Directors Proposes New Budget,
Plans to Again Add To MDARC Bank
Accounts With Unspent Dues

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 Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT
 Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV

Youth Net Thursdays 1900 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 pl)
 Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net

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Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ
 (510) 228-8223

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

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 Jim Brunk*, N6BHX
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East County 146.535 Simplex
 Jim Tittle*, KC6SOE
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QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours

Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets

Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR
 (510) 229-5705

* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

Membership Directory Update

By Dick Schulze, AA6DL

MDARC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

BARTON, Mary, KE6YAU, T+. Bruce KE6OEM (510)-676-8460(h)
 1701 Lindenwood Dr., Concord, CA 94521

CARPENTER, Cindy, KE6WRD, T. (510)-686-6239(h)
 P. O. Box 2313, Martinez, CA 94553

CARPENTER, Gail, KE6WRF, T. Mike KE6OEX (510)-686-6239(h)
 P. O. Box 2313, Martinez, CA 94553

FISHER, Ann, KF6CTG, T. (909)-593-2002(h) pir8@primenet.com(email)
 450 W. Foothill Blvd., Apt #101, Pomona, CA 91767

FOSTER, Jon, KD6HED, T. (510)-937-3355(h) fostejk@ch.etn.com(email)
 1364 Creekside Dr. #5, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (510)-299-3773(w) (510)-299-3793(fx)

KELLEY, Daniel J., KF6HQO, T. Claudia (510)-758-8797(h)
 1930 Corte Cruz, Pinole, CA 94564 (510)-223-6392(fx)

SULLIVAN, Jonathan, KE6ZPJ, T. (510)-846-7727(h)
 6930 Corte Mercado, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Note: Due to the great number of updates received in the course of the annual renewals these are omitted this month. The new roster will be published in February with the latest membership information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 13	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villa's, Concord
January 15	7:30 pm	RRRG General Meeting	Stonebrook Healthcare Center 4367 Concord Blvd., Concord
January 17	8:00 pm	MDARC Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
January 25	9:00 am-Noon	Fairfield Ham Exams Dick, AB6EY, (916) 791-0268	Fairfield Senior Center 1200 Civic Drive, Fairfield Last Saturday of each Month
January 31		February Carrier Deadline	
February 2	7:00 am-Noon	Livermore Swapmeet	Las Positas College, Livermore 1st Sunday every month
February 2	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months

The Carrier
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P.O. Box 23222
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Address Correction Requested

RRRG Meeting: January 15
MDARC Meeting: January 17